

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polyamide molding compound having ~~comprising~~  
(1) a partially crystalline polyamide, which includes a partially aromatic copolyamide, and (2) a mineral filler,  
  
characterized in that the mineral filler, before it is added to the polyamide, consists essentially of uncoated is ultrafine chalk ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) provided as precipitated ultrafine chalk having an average particle size of at most 100 nm,  
  
the molding compound being substantially free of any other filler; ~~and~~  
  
~~the uncoated ultrafine chalk is admixed with the polyamide molding compound as uncoated ultrafine chalk.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The polyamide molding compound according to Claim 1,  
  
characterized in that it includes at most 40 weight-percent of said ultrafine chalk.

3. (Previously Presented) The polyamide molding compound according to Claim 1,

characterized in that the ultrafine chalk has an average particle size of at most 90 nm.

4. (Previously Presented) The polyamide molding compound according to Claim 1,

characterized in that the partially aromatic copolyamide is based on the monomers hexamethylene diamine and aromatic dicarboxylic acids.

5. (Original) The polyamide molding compound according to Claim 4,

characterized in that the aromatic dicarboxylic acids include terephthalic acid and isophthalic acid in the ratio 70/30.

6. (Previously Presented) A blank made of an injection-molded polyamide molding compound according to Claim 1,

characterized in that it includes a smooth surface having a high gloss, produced by a molding tool polished to a high gloss.

7. (Original) A reflector for vehicle driving illuminators, turn signals, or street lamps, and/or a sub-reflector for vehicle driving illuminators

characterized in that it includes a blank according to Claim 6 and is metalized directly.

8. (Currently Amended) The reflector ~~and/or or~~ sub-reflector according to Claim 7,

characterized in that the metal coating is ~~applied through a PVD methods and the layer having an iridescence~~ temperature [[is]] at a value which is higher than 220°C.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method according to Claim [[9]] 17,

characterized in that the polyamide and at most 40 weight-percent ultrafine chalk are each separately dosed into the intake of the double-screw extruder.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of using a polyamide molding compound according to Claim 1 comprising injection molding said molding compound into a reflector or sub-

reflector for vehicle driving illuminators or reflectors of turn signals or street lights.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that a gas injection molding technique is used during said injection molding.

13. (Previously Presented) The polyamide molding compound of Claim 3, wherein said average particle size is at most 80 nm.

14. (Previously Presented) The polyamide molding compound according to Claim 2, characterized in that the ultrafine chalk has an average particle size of at most 70 nm.

15. (Currently Amended) A polyamide molding compound ~~having comprising~~ a partially crystalline polyamide, which includes a partially aromatic copolyamide, and a mineral filler admixed therewith, characterized in that the mineral filler ~~is admixed~~ when fed to the polyamide is as uncoated ultrafine chalk (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) having an average particle size of at most 80 nm, and

wherein the molding compound is substantially free of any other filler.

16. (Previously Presented) The polyamide molding compound of claim 15 wherein the ultrafine chalk has an average particle size of at most 70nm.

17. (Withdrawn - New) A method of producing a polyamide molding compound comprising (1) a partially crystalline polyamide including a partially aromatic copolyamide, and (2) a mineral filler, the method comprising

providing the mineral filler which consists of uncoated ultrafine chalk in the form of precipitated calcium carbonate having an average particle size of at most 100 nm,

adding said uncoated ultrafine chalk to the partially crystalline polyamide using a double-screw extruder, and

admixing the uncoated ultrafine chalk with the partially crystalline polyamide in the double-screw extruder to produce a molding compound substantially free of any filler other than said ultrafine chalk.

18. (New) A polyamide molding compound having a partially crystalline polyamide and a mineral filler, the

partially crystalline polyamide including a partially aromatic copolyamide, characterized in that

the mineral filler of the polyamide molding compound is uncoated ultrafine chalk ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) being provided as precipitated calcium carbonate having an average particle size of at most 100 nm.